



Rice Memorial MBC

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Faith to Discern

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 /1913 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus - **December 10, 2017**

Acts 13:1-12

Introduction: We have NOT yet met with any things concerning the **spreading** of the **gospel** to the **Gentiles** which bears any proportion to the largeness (extent) of that commission (charge), **"Go, and disciple ALL nations."** The **door was opened** in the **baptizing** of **Cornelius** and his friends. But since then, we had the gospel preached to the **JEWS only**, Acts 11:19. ...Here is, **I**. The solemn **ordination** of Barnabas and Saul, by divine direction, to the ministry, to the GREAT WORK of spreading the gospel among the nations...
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/acts-13.html>)

Acts 13:1, Now there were in the **church** (**CALLING out**) that was at **Antioch** certain **prophets** and **teachers**; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called **Niger**, and **Lucius** of **Cyrene**, and **Manaen**, which had been brought up with **Herod the tetrarch**, and **Saul**.

Thought 1. It's 46 AD, 5 years after Peter baptized Cornelius and the others that believed, and 17 years after Pentecost. (Source: *The Reese Chronological Bible*, Pages 1431 & 1441)

NOTE: Here is an account of the present state (condition) of the church at Antioch, which was planted, Acts 11:20.

1. How well furnished it was with **good ministers** there were there *certain prophets and teachers* (Acts 13:1), men that were eminent (obvious to the eye) for gifts, graces, and usefulness. Christ, when he *ascended on high*, gave **some prophets** and **some teachers** (Ephesians 4:11) these were **BOTH**. **Agabus** seems to have been a prophet and NOT a teacher, and many were teachers who were NOT prophets. But those here mentioned were at times **divinely inspired**, and had instructions immediately from heaven upon special occasions, which gave them the title of prophets and withal they were stated teachers of the church in their religious assemblies, expounded (explained) the scriptures, and opened the **doctrine of Christ** with suitable applications.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/acts-13.html>)

Acts 13:2, As they **ministered** to the Lord, and **fasted** (**abstain from food**), the **Holy Ghost** said, **Separate me** Barnabas and Saul for the **WORK** whereunto I have called them.

NOTE: As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted - On Mondays and Thursdays, it was usual with the more pious Jews to attend the public **service** in their synagogues, and to **FAST**: the former is what we are to understand by ministering to the Lord. On the Sabbaths they attended the service in the synagogue, but **did NOT fast**. The Greek word, λειτουργουντων, signifies **performing** the office of **praying, supplicating, rendering thanks, etc.:** hence the word λειτουργια, liturgy, the **WORK** of prayer, etc., from λιτη, supplication, according to some; or rather from λειτος, common,

and ἔργον, work, the common or public work, in which all the people were engaged.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/acts-13.html>)

NOTE: They are now, by Divine direction, to be formally consecrated to the work of preaching the gospel to the **Gentiles**. From this time **Antioch** is the great **missionary center**. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/pnt/acts-13.html>)

Acts 13:3, And when they had **fasted** and **prayed**, and **laid their hands** on them, they **SENT** them away.

NOTE: And when they had fasted and prayed. As they were ministering to the Lord and fasting when this supernatural direction came to them, so now, in fulfilling it, they engage in the same exercises. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/acts-13.html>)

Acts 13:4-5, So they, being **SENT forth** by the **Holy Ghost**, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. And when they were at **Salamis**, they **preached the word of God** in the **synagogues of the Jews**: and they had also John to their **minister (assistant)**.

NOTE: And when they were at **Salamis** - the Grecian capital of the island, situated on its eastern side, and not many hours' sail from Seleucia, They preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. At this **busy** mercantile port immense numbers of Jews were settled; which accounts for its being here said that they had more than ONE synagogue, in which Barnabas and Saul preached, while other cities had one only. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/acts-13.html>)

Acts 13:6, And when they had gone through the isle unto **Paphos**, they found a certain **SORCERER**, a **false prophet**, a **Jew**, whose name was **Barjesus (son of Jesus or Joshua)**...

Sorcerer defined 3097. magos pronounced mag'-os of foreign origin (7248); a Magian, i.e. Oriental scientist; by implication, a MAGICIAN (one skilled in MAGIC; one that practices the BLACK art):--sorcerer, wise man.

MAGIC, 1. The art (system of rules serving to facilitate the performance of certain actions) or science (knowledge) of putting into action the power of spirits; or the science of producing wonderful effects by the aid of superhuman beings, or of departed spirits; ENCHANTMENT (act of producing certain wonderful effects by the invocation [asking] or aid of demons; the use of magic arts, SPELLS or CHARMS; INCANTATION).

SPELL, a charm consisting of some words of occult (magical) power

CHARM, 1. a word or combination of words sung or spoken in the **practice** of magic.

2. Anything worn for its supposed efficacy to the wearer in averting ill or securing good fortune.

INCANTATION, the act or process of using formulas sung or spoken, with occult Ceremonies, for the purpose of raising spirits, producing enchantment, or affecting other magical results.

Exodus 7:10-12 ...**Aaron** cast down his **rod** before **Pharaoh**, and before his servants, and it became a **serpent**. Then Pharaoh also called the **wise** men and the **SORCERERS**: now the **MAGICIANS** of Egypt, they also **DID** in LIKE manner with their **enchantments**. For they cast down every man his rod, and they BECAME serpents: but **Aaron's rod** **swallowed up their rods**.

Thought 1. God did this to SHOW the superiority of HIS supernatural power to the false supernatural power of Satan.

NOTE: Unto **Paphos** - This town, next in importance to **Salamis**, was situated on the western part of the isle; and having gone from Salamis to this place is a proof that

they had gone **through the whole island** from EAST to WEST, according to the reading noticed above.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/acts-13.html>)

Acts 13:7, Which was WITH the **deputy (Roman proconsul** [governor of a province]) of the country, **Sergius Paulus**, a **prudent (sagacious** [acute: sharp in discernment]) man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to HEAR the WORD of God.

NOTE: Some of the provinces were Caesarean or imperial, and into those they sent propretors (magistrate who, having been pretor [mayor] at home, was appointed to the government of a province); others belonged to the senate and people of Rome, and into those they sent proconsuls. Cyprus had formerly been an imperial province; but Augustus, who made the distinction, had given it to the people, whence it was governed by a proconsul. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/acts-13.html>)

Acts 13:8, But **Elymas (wizard)** the **sorcerer** (for so is his name by interpretation **withstood** them, seeking to TURN AWAY the deputy **FROM the faith**).

NOTE: withstood them: Saul and Barnabas, just as Jannes and Jambres, the **magicians** of Egypt, withstood Moses: he did ALL he COULD to prevent their coming into the governor's house, and them from preaching to him, and him from hearing of them; and especially from giving heed to, and embracing the **doctrines** preached by them; which he **opposed** and **argued** against, with all the cunning and sophistry (reasoning) he was master of: (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/acts-13.html>)

Acts 13:9, Then **Saul**, (who also is called **Paul**), **FILLED (influence)** with the **Holy Ghost**, **SET his eyes** ON HIM...

NOTE: Saul, who also is - Paul - This is the first time the name Paul occurs, and the last time in which this apostle is called Saul, as his common or general name.

Saul, שאול Shaul, was the name of the first Israelitish king, and signifies **asked**, sought; from שאל shaal, he asked, inquired, etc.

Paul, Paulus, if derived from the Latin, signifies **little**, dwarfish: but if from the **Hebrew**, פלא **pala**, it signifies extraordinary, wonderful; and this appears to have been the derivation assigned to it by **St. Jerome**, com. in Ep. Pauli ad Philem., who translates it *mirabilis*, wonderful, and Hesychius must have had the same in view, for he defines it thus, Παυλος, θαυμαζος, η εκλεκτος, συμβουλος, **Paul**, wonderful, or elect, counsellor.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/acts-13.html>)

NOTE: that he was FILLED with the Holy Ghost; which does NOT design the gifts and graces of the Holy Ghost in general, with which he was always filled, and thereby qualified for his work as an **apostle**; but in particular, that he had **BY the Spirit**, NOT only a **discerning** of the wickedness of this man, but of the WILL of God, to make him at this time a public example of **divine wrath** and **vengeance** (punishment inflicted in return for an offense), for his opposition to the Gospel....

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/acts-13.html>)

Acts 13:10, And said, O full of all **subtilty (wile** [SLY: secretly mischievous], **insidious** [crafty] artifice [plan]) and all **mischief** (evil), thou **child** of the **devil**, thou enemy of **all righteousness**, wilt thou NOT cease to **pervert (distort)** the RIGHT WAYS of the Lord?

NOTE: He **charged** upon him his present crime, and expostulated (reason) with him upon it: "Wilt thou NOT cease to **pervert** the right ways of the Lord, to misrepresent them, to put false colours upon them, and so to **discourage people** from entering into them, and walking in them?" (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/acts-13.html>)

Acts 13:11, And now, behold, the **hand** of the **Lord** is upon thee, and thou shalt be **blind**, NOT seeing the sun for a **season**. And immediately there **FELL ON** him a **mist (dimness of sight, i.e. probably a cataract)** and a **darkness (shadiness)**; and he went about seeking some to **LEAD HIM** by the hand.

NOTE: A mist... Hippocrates, the ancient Greek physician called the "Father of Medicine," used this word "to express a **darkening** and **dimming** of the **eyes** by **cataract** or other disease."

For a season ... shows that the unusual **judgment** against Elymas was NOT without its element of **MERCY**. His blindness was NOT permanent.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/acts-13.html>)

Acts 13:12, Then the **deputy**, when he **SAW** what was done, **BELIEVED**, being **astonished** at the **DOCTRINE** of the Lord.

Believeth defined 4100, to have FAITH (IN or with respect to, a PERSON), by impli., to ENTRUST (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ).

NOTE: Notwithstanding all the endeavours of Elymas to turn away the deputy from the faith, he was brought **to believe**, and this **miracle**, wrought upon the **magician** himself (like the boils of Egypt, which were upon the **MAGICIANS**, so that they could NOT stand before Moses, Ex. 9:11), contributed to it. The deputy was a very **sensible** (discerning) man, and observed something uncommon, and which intimated its divine original... (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/acts-13.html>)

Acts 13:13-19, Now when Paul and his company loosed from **Paphos**, they came to **Perga** in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem. But when they departed from Perga, they came to **Antioch** in **Pisidia**, and went into the **synagogue** on the **sabbath day**, and sat down. And after the **READING** of the **LAW** and the prophets the **RULERS** of the synagogue **sent unto them**, saying, Ye men and brethren, **IF ye have any word of exhortation** for the people, **SAY ON**. Then **Paul** stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that **FEAR God**, give audience.

The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an **high arm brought he them out** of it. And about the time of **forty years** suffered he their manners in the wilderness. And when he had destroyed **SEVEN** nations in the land of **Chanaan**, **he divided their land to them by LOT**.

Acts 13:22-23, 28-30 ... he **raised up** unto them **David** to be their **king**; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of **JESSE**, a man **AFTER** mine own heart, which shall fulfil **ALL my will**. Of this man's **seed** hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus...And though they found no cause of **death** in him, yet desired they **Pilate** that he should be **slain**. And when they had fulfilled all that was **written** of him, they took him down from the **tree (wood)**, and laid him in a **sepulchre**. But **God raised him from** the **dead...**

Acts 13:37-39, 42-45, But he, whom **God raised again**, saw **NO corruption**. Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is **PREACHED** unto you the **forgiveness of sins**: Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him **all that BELIEVE are justified from all things**, from which ye **could NOT be justified** by the **LAW** of Moses.

...And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the **Gentiles** besought that these words might be **preached** to them the **next sabbath**. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to **continue in the grace of God**. And the next sabbath day came almost the **WHOLE CITY** together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were **filled** with **envy**, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, **contradicting** and **blaspheming**.